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REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 4-29 MAY 1992

Rapporteur: Mr. Luis ESPADA-PLATET (United States)

DRAFT DECISION

Assistance to Myanmar

The Governing Council,

Noting the status of the fifth country programme for Myanmar as set out in the Administrator's note (DP/1992/63) and in document DP/1992/CRP.7,

Further noting the proposal of the Administrator that the implementation of the fifth country programme be continued from fourth cycle resources,

1. Requests the Administrator to review with the Government of Myanmar reallocations, as appropriate, of fourth programming cycle indicative planning figure resources and to approve personally higher priority projects likely to have greater impact at the grass-roots level from the resources thereby released;

GE.92-70993/9744a

2. Also requests the Administrator to conduct, through the Central Evaluation Office, a detailed review of the fifth country programme for Myanmar, including an evaluation of the impact of all projects implemented under it and to present a report to the Governing Council, together with recommendations on programming for Myanmar under the fifth programming cycle, at its fortieth session (1993);

3. Decides to defer further action on the sixth country programme for Myanmar until the Governing Council has considered and accepted the review and recommendations requested in paragraph 2 above.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Luis ESPADA-PLATET (United States)

DRAFT DECISION

Evaluation

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind its decision 83/12 of 24 June 1983, and 91/25 of 25 June 1991,

Taking note of the Administrator's report contained in document DP/1992/20 and the views expressed thereon in the Governing Council,

1. Welcomes the change in approach in the evaluation activities of the United Nations Development Programme towards more impact- and result-oriented assessments as well as towards increased strategy- and policy-oriented evaluation of United Nations Development Programme activities during the fifth programming cycle;

GE.92-70999/4022H

2. Urges the Administrator to strengthen the capacity of the Central Evaluation Office: (a) to undertake policy, strategy and programme evaluations in line with the findings and recommendations of the strategic planning exercise and workload study referred to in documents DP/1992/20 and DP/1992/45 and (b) to backstop the evaluation capacity of the Regional Bureaux, keeping in mind the necessity to involve the recipient Governments themselves in evaluation activities through capacity-building and training in order to enhance needs-driven assessments of development cooperation activities;

3. Requests the Administrator to expand and accelerate measures that ensure genuine feedback and use of results attained through evaluations and assessments to the programming activities of the United Nations Development Programme as well as to the Governments concerned.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Luis ESPADA-PLATET (United States)

DRAFT DECISION

Programme approach

Recalling its decisions 90/21 of 22 June 1990 and 91/27 of 21 June 1991, in which the Governing Council recognized the need for the United Nations Development Programme assistance to be designed in such a way as to provide more flexible and effective support to national development programmes and ensure their sustainability.

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator (DP/1992/46), which further defines the conceptual framework for the programme approach and of the views of the Governing Council on this matter;

2. Stresses that the programme approach should be applied on a country-specific basis and that the use of a variety of operational tools and programme-support mechanisms should be explored and encouraged in implementing that approach;

3. Further stresses that, while experimenting with the various tools and mechanisms, the United Nations Development Programme should continue to ensure the smooth implementation of country programmes;

4. Encourages the United Nations Development Programme, in consultation with Governments and United Nations specialized agencies to continue its work on the formulation of guiding principles for the programme approach in line with this decision, taking into account, inter alia, the need to:

(a) Assist relevant national organizations in the assessment and enhancement of technical and managerial capacities at the programme level and in the formulation and implementation of cross-sectoral, sectoral and subsectoral development programmes;

(b) Assist in the transfer of skills necessary for the development of self-sustained national institutions with a capacity to deal with multisectoral linkages;

5. Stresses the need to develop baseline data and success indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of projects/programmes assisted by the United Nations Development Programme in line with the requirements of the programme approach;

6. Also stresses the need to involve the United Nations specialized agencies at the early stages of the design of the United Nations Development Programme assistance and support to national development programmes, at the request of Governments;

7. Requests the Administrator (a) to hold informal consultations at the United Nations Development Programme headquarters on the draft guiding principles during the second half of 1992 and (b) to submit a progress report to the Governing Council at its fortieth session (1993).

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OTHER MATTERS

DRAFT DECISION

The activities of the United Nations Development Programme in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 92/8 of 14 February 1992, and its decision 92/__ of __ May 1992,

Taking note of document DP/1992/51,

Welcoming Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan as recipient countries in the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that the United Nations Development Programme's involvement in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States should not be to the detriment of existing programmes,

Taking fully into account the requirements of these countries with respect to their interaction with the United Nations system in general and with the United Nations Development Programme in particular,

Recognizing the need to ensure that the United Nations Development Programme's work in the region and that of other multilateral and bilateral donors is complementary,

Wishing to ensure that any temporary United Nations Development Programme field structure in the countries concerned is determined solely by the practical requirements of its operations,

Emphasizing the importance it attaches to an integrated United Nations system approach to and integrated United Nations system presence in the countries concerned,

Aware of the need for the United Nations Development Programme to respond appropriately to changing circumstances in the countries concerned,

1. Notes the intention of the Administrator to submit, wherever possible, country programmes for the countries concerned to the Governing Council at its fortieth session (1993);

2. Requests the Administrator to work with the countries concerned, other interested governments, and other relevant bodies, including the World Bank, the European Economic Community, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Asian Development Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, so as to ensure that the United Nations Development Programme's work in the region is focused on areas where it has a comparative advantage;

3. Further requests the Administrator to continue efforts to clarify the country-specific role and comparative advantages of the United Nations Development Programme in the countries concerned;

4. Also requests the Administrator to work with the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, in order to reach an early agreement which will ensure an integrated United Nations system approach to and an integrated United Nations system presence in the countries concerned, including common administrative support arrangements;

5. Invites the governing bodies of other relevant United Nations specialized agencies and funds, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at their 1992 sessions to examine ways of ensuring such an integrated approach and integrated presence;

6. Requests the Administrator to provide the countries concerned with operational support during the 1992-1993 period, particularly in the areas of programme development, national capacity-building and the provision of practical advice, using available programme resources and extra-budgetary resources;

7. Authorizes the Administrator to open at this stage a limited number of temporary national and/or regional United Nations Development Programme offices in the countries concerned;

8. Requests the Administrator, taking into account the needs of the countries concerned during this transitional period, to give priority in determining the location of any temporary United Nations Development Programme office to those countries with the lowest relative levels of per capita gross national product and the highest levels of indicative planning figure and aggregate programme resources;

9. Also requests the Administrator to follow an innovative and cost-effective approach when opening any offices and/or providing operational support;

10. Approves, on an exceptional basis, the use during the 1992-1993 period of up to $3 million from savings in the original appropriation for the 1992-1993 core budget, as specified in document DP/1992/40, to enable the Administrator to give effect to paragraph 7 of the present decision;

11. Urges the Administrator to negotiate cost-sharing arrangements with the countries concerned, with the aim of covering from host country contributions all expenses in local currency incurred in a given country;

12. Encourages the Administrator to seek to complement the country indicative planning figures through other programmable resources, including United Nations Development Programme non-convertible currency holdings and extrabudgetary resources;

13. Decides to review at its special session in February 1993 the provisional action undertaken by the Administrator in the execution of the present decision and the size of the budgetary envelope contained in paragraph 10 of the present decision on the basis of a report from the Administrator and in the light of any deliberations that have taken place pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the present decision.

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Rapporteur: Mr Luis ESPADA-PLATET (United States)

DRAFT DECISION

Country programming and mid-term reviews

The Governing Council,

Recalling decisions 88/17 of 1 July 1988 and 89/11 of 24 February 1989,

Taking note of the country programmes presented for approval by the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session,

Reaffirming the need for the Administrator to carry out mid-term reviews of (a) all country programmes and (b) all regional, interregional and global programmes,

1. Welcomes the clearer, more structured form of country programme documents prepared by the Administrator for consideration by the Council at its thirty-ninth session;

2. Requests the Administrator to include in mid-term review documents a brief analysis of:

(a) Levels of national execution, together with experience gained;

(b) United Nations Development Programme assistance in national capacity-building at the policy and programme formulation, management and evaluation levels;

(c) Experience with the new support costs arrangements, including problems encountered in their implementation;

(d) Experience with the programme approach, including the use of alternative programme support mechanisms and the extent to which it has changed the focus of the country programme;

3. Requests the Administrator to include in future country programme documents:

(a) More consistent information on lessons learned from previous programming cycles and mid-term reviews, especially the areas discussed in paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (d) of the present decision;

(b) More comprehensive indicators of performance;

4. Also requests the Administrator to continue to increase the focus of country programmes on a smaller number of concentration areas according to recipient country needs, taking into account the comparative advantages of the United Nations Development Programme;

5. Invites the Administrator to submit to the Governing Council at its special session in 1993 a tentative timetable for the various mid-term reviews to be carried out in the years 1993-1995, together with his proposals on how he will report on the outcomes of the reviews, bearing in mind decision 89/11 of 24 February 1989;

6. Requests the Administrator to report to the Governing Council at its [fortieth] session on progress achieved in the harmonization of programme cycles and programming procedures among members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy;

7. Requests the Administrator, in this connection, to increase his efforts to stagger the scheduling of country programmes throughout the programming cycle;

8. Stresses that the six priority themes established in decision 90/34 of 23 June 1990 should be taken into account in the formulation of national capacity-building assistance strategies, but need not necessarily form the primary areas of concentration of United Nations Development Programme-assisted programmes and projects;

9. Decides that the Administrator's note on individual country programmes will be prepared for submission presentation to the Governing Council only when necessary.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Luis ESPADA-PLATET (United States)

DRAFT DECISION

UNDP programme in former Yugoslavia

The Governing Council,

1. Notes the implementation status of the fourth cycle programme for former Yugoslavia;

2. Further notes the proposal of the Administrator to draw, as necessary, on the small balance of fourth cycle programme resources carried forward, solely for the preparation, under preparatory assistance umbrella projects, of urgent humanitarian projects on a case-by-case basis;

3. Authorizes the Administrator to proceed, exceptionally, on the basis of paragraph 2 of the present decision.

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OTHER MATTERS

DRAFT DECISION SUBMITTED BY BELGIUM, BULGARIA, FRANCE, POLAND, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SWITIZERLAND AND TURKEY*

Venue of sessions of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, in particular paragraph 4 (a) thereof,

Also recalling Governing Council decision 89/63 of 30 June 1989,

Having considered the question of the venue of the Governing Council,

Awaiting the outcome of the debate initiated by General Assembly decision 46/465 of 20 December 1991 on strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the field of operational activities,

Decides to continue to hold its regular sessions alternatively at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and at the United Nations Office at Geneva in accordance with rule 1 of its rules of procedure.

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

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OTHER MATTERS

DRAFT DECISION SUBMITTED BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Venue of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Taking into account the views of delegations expressed at the thirty-ninth session of the Governing Council,

1. Decides to review the issue of the venue of sessions of the Governing Council at its fortieth session (1993) and to that effect includes in its provisional agenda for the fortieth session an item entitled "Venue of sessions of the Governing Council";

2. Requests the Administrator to provide additional detailed information on, inter alia, attendance and actual costs of holding sessions at Geneva or in New York and invites the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to report thereon to the Governing Council at its fortieth session;

3. Decides to transmit the text contained in documents DP/1992/L.5/Rev.1 and DP/1992/L.22 for consideration at its fortieth session.

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